

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ALBANY INSTITUTE AMONG SELECT GROUP OF ACCREDITED MUSEUMS NATIONWIDE



Albany Institute of History & Art. Photo © Paul Warchol

ALBANY, NY—The Albany Institute of History & Art has achieved reaccreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the highest national recognition afforded to museums in the United States. Accreditation signifies excellence to the museum community, governments, funders, and outside agencies, and to the museum-going public. The Albany Institute has been accredited since 1980. All museums must undergo a reaccreditation review at least every 10 years to maintain accredited status.

Recognized as the gold standard for museum excellence for 55 years, AAM’s Accreditation Program strengthens the museum profession by promoting practices that enable leaders to make informed decisions, allocate resources wisely, and remain financially and ethically accountable to provide the best possible service to the public.

“This reaccreditation affirms the Albany Institute’s deep commitment to stewardship and public service,” said Kayla R. Carlsen, Albany Institute Executive Director. “The process gave us the opportunity to assess where we are and where we’re going—ensuring the museum is well-positioned to serve our community now and long into the future. I am incredibly grateful to our staff for their dedication, thoughtfulness, and care throughout this process, and to our Board for their ongoing leadership and support.”

“Accreditation represents the highest standard of excellence in the museum field,” said George R. Hearst III, Albany Institute Board of Trustees Chair. “It assures our supporters that the Albany Institute operates with integrity, strong governance, fiscal responsibility, and a clear commitment to public service. This distinction positions the museum to continue growing its impact and serving as a vital cultural resource for the Capital Region.”

Of the nation’s estimated 33,000 museums, roughly 1,100 are currently accredited. The Albany Institute is one of only 69 total museums accredited in New York State.

Accreditation is a rigorous but highly rewarding process that examines all aspects of a museum’s operations. To earn accreditation, a museum first must conduct a year of self-study and then undergo a site visit by a team of peer reviewers. AAM’s Accreditation Commission, an independent and autonomous body of museum professionals, considers the self-study and visiting committee report to determine whether a museum should receive accreditation.

“Accreditation is a monumental achievement,” said Marilyn Jackson, AAM President & CEO. “The process demonstrates an institution’s commitment to best practice and is flexible enough to be accomplished by museums of any size.”

### **ABOUT THE ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART**

Founded in 1791, the Albany Institute of History & Art is New York's oldest museum. Its collections document the Hudson Valley as a crossroads of culture, influencing the art and history of the region, the state, and the nation. With more than 25,000 objects in the collection and one million documents in the research library, it is a resource for the region. Permanent exhibitions include one of the largest collections of Hudson River School paintings, a history of Ancient Egypt, and other fine art, ceramics, and furniture, as well as rotating temporary exhibitions.

### **ABOUT THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE OF MUSEUMS**

The American Alliance of Museums (AAM) is the only organization representing the entire museum field, from art and history museums to science centers and zoos. Since 1906, we have been championing museums through advocacy and providing museum professionals with the resources, knowledge, inspiration, and connections they need to move the field forward.

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